

IIR98-1488D

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present Application. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by JP 09-302139 to Ohira. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

JP 09-302139 to Ohira was published on November 25, 1997. In making the rejection the Examiner has failed to note that the pending application is a divisional application of U.S. Application No. 09/091,563 filed on March 22, 1999, which is a national stage application that claims priority to PCT Application No. PCT/JP/01124 filed on March 28, 1997 and several Japanese patent applications, the earliest of which is JP 08-116269 that was filed on May 10, 1996. Thus it is clear that JP 09-302139 to Ohira cannot anticipate the pending claims because it was published after our earliest claim to priority as well as after the filing date of the PCT application.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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